2007

Trajectories of Offending from Childhood to Early Adulthood in Girls With and Without Mental Health System Involvement

Maryann Davis
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Steven M. Banks
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Bernice Gershenson
University of Massachusetts Medical School

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/psych_cmhsr

Part of the Criminology Commons, Health Services Research Commons, Juvenile Law Commons, Law and Psychology Commons, Psychiatric and Mental Health Commons, Psychiatry Commons, and the Psychiatry and Psychology Commons

Repository Citation
https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/psych_cmhsr/641

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Systems and Psychosocial Advances Research Center Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Trajectories of Offending from Childhood to Early Adulthood in Girls With and Without Mental Health System Involvement

Authors
Maryann Davis, Steven M. Banks, Bernice Gershenson, William H. Fisher, and Albert J. Grudzinskas

Comments
Trajectories of Offending from Childhood to Early Adulthood in Girls With and Without Mental Health System Involvement

Maryann Davis, PhD, Steven Banks, PhD, Bernice Gershenson, MPH, William Fisher, PhD, Albert Grudzinskas, Jr., JD; Center for Mental Health Services Research

Abstract

Method

Usd Two Massachusetts statewide Administrative Databases

DMH & Non-DMH

DMH records pulled as of March '06-

14.6

Low

Mid*

CICS

YITS

Low

Methods: Using statewide administrative data from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Massachusetts' juvenile and justice systems databases, the investigators analyzed the criminal justice (corrections and court) records of female youth ages 18-21 with and without a history of mental health system contact.

Maryann Davis, PhD, Steven Banks, PhD, Bernice Gershenson, MPH, William Fisher, PhD, Albert Grudzinskas, Jr., JD, Center for Mental Health Services Research

Conclusions: Concern about justice system involvement of female youths in intensive MH services is justified. Among girls with multiple ages of arrest, differences in criminal careers between the mental health and non mental health system users was minimal. Implications of trajectory findings highlight the need for targeted prevention and intervention strategies.

Comparative Trajectory Approach

Background: Trajectories: Middle-schoolers with chronic mental illness may experience a gradual increase in criminal justice involvement or a rapid increase.

1. Analyze DMH and Non-DMH trajectories separately
2. Determine shared patterns and patterns unique to each group
3. Apply age Premium Study: Findings on % of 18-21 Year Olds with Recent Trouble with the Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Psych</th>
<th>Non Psych</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-17</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frequency of Arrest by Age 25

DMH vs Non-DMH Females

Combining DMH and Non-DMH females' court records resulted in the best model having a total of eight unique patterns of charge frequencies over time.

Summary of Trajectory Findings

- There are five trajectory patterns that are unique to each group.
- The impact of DMH status is primarily reflected in the trajectory of girls with repeat arrests.
- The trajectory groups that are most extreme are among the youth least concerned with delinquency.

Acknowledgement

The authors thank Laura Ahern for her contributions to this project. The work was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (R01 MH094344).